

## Ginetta's Thruxton Thrills



*It's exactly the half way point for the two Ginetta Championships that are out this weekend. The beefy G50s are new blood to Thruxton, but it's a joyous return for the Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship G20 cars.*



Those familiar with Thruxton circuit will be aware it's Britain's fastest circuit in terms of reaching high speeds; particularly out of Church at the back of the circuit and along Brooklands towards the grandstand at Club.



The field visited this popular track twice last year and on both occasions, it wasn't uncommon for cars to arrive at Club four abreast and somehow find space on the track to emerge unscathed! Position your car in the wrong place and you will lose places. Get tucked up behind a car and it's likely you'll make it through ahead.



The only way to escape is to break a slipstream's tow and for that you have to rely on those behind you making a mistake or holding each other up in their own battle.



This is what happened at Snetterton two weeks ago. The Norfolk track is also traditionally one where slipstreaming has a huge effect and can make the winner unpredictable. However, Spencer McCarthy and Julian Barratt got an early escape from the rest of the field to fight it out between them at the front.



A race one accident opened up a gap the pair needed to make it a two-car fight until McCarthy encountered a problem in the closing stages and hand Barrett his first victory of the season. Gary Simms landed his second podium this year running on his own in third ahead of a battling field behind.

The second race had a much closer finish, but the top two again broke away to battle amongst themselves as 3rd through to 7th fought it out nose to tail. But a side-by-side photo finish over the line for the win and for third had McCarthy a mere 0.004 seconds advantage over Barratt, while Paul Moden just pipped Andy Smith to get on the podium by 0.022 seconds.



It was Moden's first weekend back racing since the 2007 season closed but returned hungry. Unfortunately it was a one-off appearance, but we welcome another returning racer to the fold here today.

Mark Wania has so far missed the opening half of the season, but returns off the back of a win at Brands Hatch in the Ginetta Winter Series last November. He hasn't been in a racing car since then, but as Thruxton's his favourite track and has previous double-podium form in 2006, his experience makes him a serious contender.



McCarthy had a double-podium here last October and so will more than likely be at the front too, but for Championship rival Kieran Vernon this will be his Thruxton debut. He'll be hoping for a problem-free weekend following mechanical difficulties at Snetterton that allowed McCarthy to open up a 39-point lead at the top.



How the G50s will react to the Thruxton circuit is a big unknown at present, as this is the premier outing for the brand new Ginetta model and single-make Championship.



So far sixteen-year-old Nigel Moore has been in a class of his own, but Frank Wrathall, Toby Newton and Christian Dick have been showing increased pace recently – the latter two both finishing twice on the podium at Snetterton – so together with the guest drivers here will hopefully give the young man a run for his money!

Ginetta boss and former Le Mans GT2 winner Richard Dean is among them, out "just to enjoy myself" yet will certainly be there pushing the frontrunners.

Unfortunately Jon Cook will sit out the weekend because of his Snetterton accident, Ben Elliott's funds have expired and Clive Coote is away on business so a few familiar faces will sadly be absent.

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For further information about LNT Automotive please contact Jay Ashton, Media Manager:

[Jay.Ashton@TeamLNT.com](mailto:Jay.Ashton@TeamLNT.com)

LNTautomotive

T: 08452 10 50 50 M: 07919 186291 W: [www.Ginettacars.com](http://www.Ginettacars.com)

Helios 47, Isabella Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2DY